



# REJUVENATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AT SCHOOLS SITUATED IN RURAL AREAS

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**Abstract:** India is the Fastest Growing Economy and also home to the largest number of people with Middle and low income groups living in urban and rural areas of the country. School education system in India is one the largest in the world and many and many initiatives have been taken to improve the quality of education jointly at national and state level. Chhattisgarh is one of the newly formed states of India. The education system of the state is though not remarkable, the state government is making all its efforts to improve the situation by running several programmes. This research paper is a case study of two government schools situated in the rural areas of the state where the efforts of the principal Support of teaching staff, enthusiastic students and new innovative techniques can rejuvenate the situation of schools not only in teaching but also for personality development and improvement of confidence level of students. One of these two schools Government Higher secondary school, Mandhar was previously chosen for the study and now another school Government Girls Higher secondary school, Nawapara-Rajim is also included in this case study. The main focus of this paper is overall development of students through effective leadership and method of study

**Index Terms:** Rural Area, School Education, Rejuvenation, Innovative Techniques, Leadership.

## Introduction:

Education is the key which allows people to open up the world of opportunities, seek better jobs, and ultimately succeed in their lives. Education gives us knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. India is a fastest growing major economy but still a developing country and also a home to the largest number of people with a low income group. The school education system in India is the largest in the world and many initiatives have been taken to improve the quality of education jointly at the national level and state level.

Chhattisgarh state is one of the newly formed states of India. The education system of the state was not very remarkable while establishment of the state due to lack of proper and effective educational infrastructure. The state government is making all its efforts to improve the situation by running several programmes for enhancing the educational situation of the state. But changing the scenario is possible when the entire system of education from the top ministry level to the school level puts their support to make the programmes successful.

This research paper discussed about the Government schools situated in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh where the resources available for the education are limited but the willingness to give the best quality education is the administration and the staff of school is rejuvenating the schools and making the students communication friendly, confident and also increasing their academic as well as practical knowledge to built their personality versatile.

This is a case study that shows how the efforts of the Principal, Support of Teaching staff, enthusiastic students and new innovative techniques of not only teaching but also for personality development creates confidence and also rejuvenate the government schools situated in rural areas of Chhattisgarh state.

These two schools are

1. Government Higher Secondary School, Mandhar, Chhattisgarh.
2. Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Navapara – Rajim, Chhattisgarh.

One of these two schools, Government Higher secondary School, Mandhar was previously chosen for the study “Impact of ICT For Teachers Professional Development in Schools situated in rural Areas” Published in International journal of research, science and engineering, ISSN no 2394- 8280, Volume 2, Issue 3, year May- June 2017 and “Impact of Guest Lecture on Development of Communication skills of rural school going students” Published in Global journal for Research Analysis, ISSN No.2277-8160, Volume 6, Issue 12 year Dec 2017.

### **Need of Innovative techniques in school education system:**

Nowadays all the educational institutions are trying to provide their students best quality education not only in urban but also in rural areas. Government schools situated in rural areas of Chhattisgarh are also using innovative techniques to enrich their students’ knowledge and to make them confident.

1. The teaching would be highly effective, if innovative techniques are used to teach students.
2. The innovative technique makes the teaching ‘teacher centred’ to ‘student centric’ and increases their participation in the classroom.
3. Interactive teaching methods improve the communication skill of students and also develop leadership qualities in the students.
4. Innovative techniques provide an effective support system to the teachers while teaching in the classroom.
5. Innovative techniques can play as an important tool while providing formal classroom teaching and motivational education to the students.

### **Objectives of the study:**

1. To study the importance of innovative techniques to improve students’ knowledge.
2. To study the changes occurred in the confidence level of students after going through innovative techniques.

### **Methodology of the Study:**

This study is based on the case study to know the effectiveness of innovative techniques applied over the students studying in higher secondary level (Class 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) at two Government schools situated in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh state. Personal Interview and questionnaire filled by the students and staff are used as primary data and newspaper; websites are used as secondary data.

### **Introduction of Schools chosen for the study:**

#### **1. Government Higher Secondary School, Mandhar, Chhattisgarh:**

Mandhar Village is situated 13 km west from the Raipur railway station, the capital of Chhattisgarh state. There are two primary and two higher secondary Schools situated in Mandhar which were consolidated together in year 2017-18 as Government Higher secondary School, Mandhar. The school has 35 teachers and more than 1200 students studying Arts, Commerce and Science Discipline in the school. School is trying to provide all kinds of facilities like good teaching environment, neat and clean classrooms and campus enriched Library, sports material and Gym etc. The smart Class room situated in the school is well equipped with ICT Tools like Projectors, Audio, and Video Ads etc. My First choice For the Case study was this school because I visited this school as a Visiting Faculty Commerce to teach the students of Class 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> under their Guest Faculty Programme in year 2017 where I noticed so many innovative ideas followed by the Principle Mrs. Sarita Nasre and Teaching staff to rejuvenate the small school situated in a rural area.

## 2. Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Navapara – Rajim:

Navapara –rajim is a village situated near Rajim city which is the holy city of Chhattisgarh. It is approximately 46 Km. From the Raipur railway station. There are 2 government schools in Navapara –Rajim from which our study is based on Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Navapara- Rajim. The school has 23 teachers and 847 Girls students studying Arts, Commerce and Science Discipline in the school. Here also the School is trying to provide all kinds of facilities like good teaching environment, neat and clean classrooms and campus etc to the students.

My next choice For the Case study was this school to know about the changes occurred in any institution after the change in the administration or we can say the leadership especially if the individual is continuously involved in practicing innovative ideas so when Principle Mandhar Mrs. Sarita Nasre joined as principal here it was my keen desire to know that whether the new innovative ideas can make such a positive impact on the students of this school also.

### Innovative ideas Followed by the schools:

Generally when we talk about the innovative ideas our main focus is on the new technology based changes in the educational institutions. Though this change is necessary, the newly formed state like Chhattisgarh where basic facilities of communication like internet in rural areas are not reachable to all the population of the village. Most of the people are from low and middle income groups and they can not afford to spend money in these types of facilities. So some best Innovative Ideas Practiced in both schools to give the students quality education and also make them Confident and improved their communication skill by giving them different platforms to express their thoughts.

#### 1. Mann ki Baat

In this programme the students can discuss their problems and thoughts with their Principal, Teachers and staff so that the problem can be solved within time and accuracy. The second part of the Programme Mann ki Baat is the interaction with Government Officers of different departments including deputy collector, Tahasildar, Panchayat Vibhag employees, Officials of Education department where students can ask their questions with the officers regarding their work, career, guidance about competitive exams and so on. Mann ki Baat is proved an effective innovative tool in both schools as the students have a keen desire to keep their thoughts before their Principal as well as the government officers. This makes them confident and also develop their communication skills.

#### 2. Guest lecturers Programme

The Guest Lecture Programme was adopted in Mandhar School in 2016. The School Authority arranged a continuous lecture series for the students specially for class 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Guest lecture programme was adopted in Nava para – Rajim in year 2019 Two types of guest lectures are provided to the students

1. Lectures related to the course of the subject, students studying in their Class.
2. Lectures to motivate students and connect them with the mainstream of society and make them aware about social Issues.

The Guest Faculties are from different educational institutions, Schools teachers, college professors, retired teachers sharing their valuable knowledge with the students. The changes occurred in the students are

1. Good, Encouraging and cooperative classroom environment developed.
2. Systematic and interactive classroom activities.
3. Students get knowledge about Framing of questions, specific answer writing patterns and also got basic knowledge of the study.

These practice increases the results of both schools more than 10% from last year's result.

#### 3. Teaching Through ICT Based Technology

The schools have smart classrooms situated in the school with the facility of various e resources where teachers used to teach students with the help of new ICT based tools. Schools provide resources to the students and conduct online classes to the students. This facility is a big facility for the students as most of the students have not their own Mobile phone or computer facility in their home so this facility provides them to connect with the new technology and also connect with the entire world.

Some other Innovative Practices are

1. Growing plants on the School Campus and taking care of them by the students.
2. Practical science through models made by students.

3. Practical Knowledge for commerce students by opening departmental stores of stationary by students and maintain accounts of stores by the students .
4. Continuous practice of making the school environment clean and beautiful by the students.
5. **Massive Plantation Programme by Students:** Growing plants in the School Campus and taking care of them by the students is one of the best practices in both schools. Each student grows plants in his own name and cares for the plant . The main purpose is to save the plant from dry out and to grow it as a big tree to save the environment. Students grow plants on the school campus , make fertilizers , decorate pots for plants happily and they give a plant to the guests who come to school .
6. **Departmental store of stationary by students:** one of these schools, Government Higher secondary school , Mandhar, is running departmental store by the students of Commerce subject. This is a best practice to give Practical Knowledge to the students., opening of departmental stores Management of work along with regular studies, purchase and sales of stationary ,maintain accounts of stores and other activities performed by the students provides them practical knowledge of business and also making them aware from the difficulties while running a business. The students and staff are the customers of the stores. Teachers help the students while performing all these activities.In Government Girls Higher secondary School, Nawapara – Rajim this is under progress.
7. **Other Activities :**Practical's of science through models made by students, Library , gym(in Nawapara- Rajim School gym is under process) and also continuous practice of making the school environment clean and beautiful by the student are the activities which makes the environment of the school beautiful and Happy.

Some questions are discussed with the school Principal, teachers and the students about the innovative technique adopted by the school administration. The questions are :

Question from teachers:

1. What difference do they feel between while teaching through new innovative methods ?
2. Do they feel changes in students after using new Innovative methods ?
3. What type of change do they experience in their professional work ?
4. What type of problems do they feel while using these systems ?
5. Do they feel that Innovative methods are the motivational factor to make students confident?

Question from Students:

1. What difference do they feel after adopting innovative techniques ?
2. What difference do they feel in their academic environment?
3. What difference do they feel in the environment of school campus?
4. What difference do they feel in the confidence level ?
5. What difference do they feel about their social awareness ?

### **Findings of the study**

#### **Teachers View:**

##### **1.Use of Innovative technique in class room:**

During case study teachers gave so many examples about changes in their teaching due to using New Innovative technique. They said that they can do a number of things with the help of ICT. Now they can prepare notes for students, search for educational websites, use PowerPoint presentation audio and video tools, effective graphs, charts and pictures with the help of ICT are making their class interesting and lively.

##### **2. Changes in relationship of Students and teachers:**

Teachers mentioned that the classroom activities are now more systematic and interactive then old chalk and duster style. Now they feel that they become co-learner with their students as they have to prepare themselves regularly to deliver lectures. Search for new Information for the students also making them updated with the new information. They feel that now students ask their questions freely without any hesitation. These innovative practices reduce isolation between teachers and students and make them comfortable with each other.

##### **3. Changes in the Traditional work done by teachers:**

Teachers feel that the way of work done by them traditionally has been changed now they are using New ICT based techniques not only to teach but also to keep records of their professional work like preparation of classroom notes , test papers, etc. guest lectures by well known professionals and teachers helps them to enhance their knowledge. They also feel proud being a part of the motivational programme “Maan ki Baat”. Increasing

Participation of students in plantation programmes, clean and green campus , and other activities. Improvement in Confidence level of students makes them proud and gives them satisfaction of their work.

#### **Students View:**

During case study students shared their experiences

**Environment of Class room:** Students said that Now the classroom environment is good and encouraging then earlier. Teachers are fully cooperative and classroom activities are more systematic and interactive. Guest lecturers also make them comfortable during their session.

**Subject Knowledge:** Students shared that they feel satisfied from the teaching and gain more knowledge than textbook contents. They used to discuss various questions with their teachers and guest lecturers. Now they are more clear about framing of questions, style of specific answer writing and pattern of questions usually comes in examinations.

**Development of personality :** Students feel that Now they can communicate with others more effectively. Their reading and writing skills are improving day to day due to guest lecture programmes. Due to the Motivational programme Maan ki Baat now they can feel confident while performing on stage and asking questions to the speaker and find the answer of their questions. They become aware about the environmental problems and need of a clean and green campus and village due to plantation programmes . In mandhar school students share their experience of running departmental stores in a great enthusiastic way. They told that they feel themselves like an entrepreneur and are learning practically whatever they are studying in their books of study.

As mentioned before that Government School, mandhar was previously chosen for the study so when the same principal was appointed in Government Girls school , navapara rajim the interest of researcher is to know that what type of role the leadership can play to rejuvenate the school education by practicing Innovative methods in the institutions where ever they are working two studies conducted in Mandhar school and their after the study of Nawapara - Rajim school indicates that in both school students are feeling changes in their academic as well as other extracurricular activities .In both school Students attended same programmes and activities and find these activities fruitful. After studying these two school having same leadership and same innovative methods, we can say that:

1. In both Schools Innovative practices include not only ICT based studies but other practices are also included in it.
2. Students become more confident and Motivated .
3. Students become aware about social issues.
4. Students are now more aware about environmental issues.
5. Academic culture becomes more systematic.

Innovative Methods of study in teaching can prove a powerful means to rejuvenate the situations of schools situated in rural areas of the country. The willingness of the school administration and teaching staff and the support of Government , local authority and parents can change the entire scenario. Our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam says that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Let us use the Innovative methods to Sharpen this weapon.

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## Some Glimpses from the School Memories during Study



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